LB 129 LB 129

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 129

Read first time: January 8, 2007

Committee: Banking, Commerce and Insurance

A BILL

1	FOR AN ACT relating to mortgage banking; to amend sections 45-708
2	and 45-715, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and
3	sections 45-701, 45-702, 45-705, 45-706, 45-711, and 45-714,
4	Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006; to change
5	provisions relating to the Mortgage Bankers Registration and
6	Licensing Act; and to repeal the original sections.
7	Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 45-701, Revised Statutes Cumulative

- Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:
- 3 45-701. Sections 45-701 to 45-721 <u>and section 9 of this act</u>
- 4 shall be known and may be cited as the Mortgage Bankers Registration
- 5 and Licensing Act.
- 6 Sec. 2. Section 45-702, Revised Statutes Cumulative
- 7 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:
- 8 45-702. For purposes of the Mortgage Bankers Registration
- 9 and Licensing Act:
- 10 (1) Borrower means the mortgagor or mortgagors under a real
- 11 estate mortgage or the trustor or trustors under a deed of trust;
- 12 (2) Branch office means any location at which the business
- of a mortgage banker is to be conducted, including (a) any offices
- 14 physically located in Nebraska, (b) any offices that, while not
- 15 physically located in this state, intend to transact business with
- 16 <u>Nebraska residents, and (c) any third-party or home-based locations</u>
- 17 that agents and representatives intend to use to transact business
- 18 <u>with Nebraska residents;</u>
- 19 (3) Control means the power, directly or indirectly, to
- 20 <u>direct the management or policies of a mortgage banking business,</u>
- 21 whether through ownership of securities, by contract, or otherwise.
- 22 Any person who (a) is a director, a general partner, or an executive
- 23 officer, including the president, chief executive officer, chief
- 24 <u>financial officer, chief operating officer, chief legal officer,</u>
- 25 <u>chief compliance officer, and any individual with similar status and</u>
- 26 <u>function; (b) directly or indirectly has the right to vote ten</u>
- 27 percent or more of a class of voting security or has the power to

1 sell or direct the sale of ten percent or more of a class of voting 2 securities; (c) in the case of a limited liability company, is a 3 managing member; or (d) in the case of a partnership, has the right to receive, upon dissolution, or has contributed, ten percent or more 4 5 of the capital, is presumed to control that mortgage banking 6 business; 7 (2) (4) Department means the Department of Banking and 8 Finance; 9 (3) (5) Director means the Director of Banking and 10 Finance; 11 (4) (6) Financial institution means any person organized or chartered under the laws of this state, any other state, or the 12 United States relating to banks, savings institutions, trust 13 14 companies, savings and loan associations, or credit unions. Financial 15 institution also means an industrial loan and investment company 16 chartered under the laws of any other state and subject to similar supervision and regulation as a bank chartered under the laws of this 17 18 state; (5) (7) Licensee means any person licensed under the 19 20 act; 21 (6) (8) Mortgage banker means any person not exempt 22 under section 45-703 who, for compensation or gain or in the expectation of compensation or gain, directly or indirectly makes, 23 24 originates, services, negotiates, acquires, sells, arranges for, or 25 offers to make, originate, service, negotiate, acquire, sell, or arrange for ten or more mortgage loans in a calendar year; 26

(7) (9) Mortgage banking business means any person who

employs a mortgage banker or mortgage bankers or who directly or indirectly makes, negotiates, acquires, sells, arranges for, or offers to make, originate, service, negotiate, acquire, sell, or arrange for ten or more mortgage loans in a calendar year for compensation or gain or in the expectation of compensation or gain;

(8) (10) Mortgage loan means any loan or extension of credit secured by a lien on real property, including a refinancing of a contract of sale or an assumption or refinancing of a prior loan or extension of credit;

(9) (11) Offer means every attempt to provide, offer to provide, or solicitation to provide a mortgage loan or any form of mortgage banking business. Offer includes, but is not limited to, all general and public advertising, whether made in print, through electronic media, or by the Internet;

(10) (12) Person means an association, joint venture, joint-stock company, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, business corporation, nonprofit corporation, individual, or any group of individuals however organized;

(11) (13) Real property means an owner-occupied single-family, two-family, three-family, or four-family dwelling which is located in this state, which is occupied, used, or intended to be occupied or used for residential purposes, and which is, or is intended to be, permanently affixed to the land;

(12) (14) Registered bank holding company means any bank holding company registered with the department pursuant to the Nebraska Bank Holding Company Act of 1995;

(13) (15) Registrant means a person registered pursuant

- 1 to section 45-704; and
- 2 (14) (16) Service means accepting payments or
- 3 maintenance of escrow accounts in the regular course of business in
- 4 connection with a mortgage loan.
- 5 Sec. 3. Section 45-705, Revised Statutes Cumulative
- 6 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:
- 7 45-705. (1) No person shall act as a mortgage banker or use
- 8 the title mortgage banker in this state unless he, she, or it is
- 9 licensed or has registered with the department as provided in the
- 10 Mortgage Bankers Registration and Licensing Act or is licensed under
- 11 the Nebraska Installment Loan Act.
- 12 (2) Applicants for a license as a mortgage banker shall
- 13 submit to the department an application on forms provided
- 14 <u>prescribed</u> by the department. The application shall include, but
- not be limited to, (a) the applicant's corporate name and no more
- 16 than one trade name or doing business as designation, if applicable,
- 17 (b) the applicant's main office address, (c) all branch office
- addresses at which business is to be conducted, (c) (d) the names
- 19 and titles of each director and principal officer of the applicant,
- 20 (d) (e) the names of all shareholders, partners, or members of the
- 21 applicant, (e) (f) a description of the activities of the
- 22 applicant in such detail as the department may require, and (f) (g)
- 23 if the applicant is an individual, his or her social security number
- 24 (3) The application required by this section for a
- 25 <u>license as a mortgage banker</u> shall include or be accompanied by, in a
- 26 manner as prescribed by the director, (a) the name and street address
- 27 in this state of a registered agent appointed by the licensee for

receipt of service of process and (b) the written consent of the registered agent to the appointment.

- 3 (4) The application required by this section <u>for a</u>
- 4 <u>license as a mortgage banker</u> shall be accompanied by an application
- fee of four hundred dollars and, if applicable, a
- 6 <u>seventy-five-dollar fee for each branch office listed in the</u>
- 7 <u>application</u>

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

- (5) The director may prescribe that the application required by this section include or be accompanied by, in a manner as prescribed by the director, a background investigation of each applicant by means of fingerprints and a check of his or her criminal history record information maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation through the Nebraska State Patrol. If the applicant is a partnership, association, corporation, or other form of business organization, the director may require a criminal history record information check on each member, director, or principal officer of each applicant or any individual acting in the capacity of the manager of an office location. The applicant shall be responsible for the direct costs associated with criminal history record information checks performed. The information obtained thereby may be used by the director to determine the applicant's eligibility for licensing under this section. Except as authorized pursuant to subsection (3) of section 45-715, receipt of criminal history record information by a private person or entity is prohibited.
- 25 (5) (6) A license granted under the Mortgage Bankers
 26 Registration and Licensing Act shall not be assignable.
- 27 (7) An application is deemed filed when accepted as

- 1 <u>substantially complete by the director.</u>
- 2 Sec. 4. Section 45-706, Revised Statutes Cumulative
- 3 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:
- 4 45-706. (1) Upon the filing of an application for a license,
- 5 if the director finds that the character and general fitness of the
- 6 applicant, the members thereof if the applicant is a partnership,
- 7 limited liability company, association, or other organization, and the
- 8 officers, directors, and principal employees if the applicant is a
- 9 corporation are such that the business will be operated honestly,
- 10 soundly, and efficiently in the public interest consistent with the
- 11 purposes of the Mortgage Bankers Registration and Licensing Act, the
- 12 director shall issue a license as a mortgage banker to the applicant.
- 13 The director shall approve or deny an application for a license within
- 14 ninety days after the filing of (a) acceptance of the
- 15 application; (b) and delivery of the bond required under section
- 16 45-709; and (c) payment of the required fee.

27

17 (2) If the director determines that the license should be 18 denied, the director shall notify the applicant in writing of the denial and of the reasons for the denial. The director shall not deny 19 an application for a license because of the failure to submit 20 21 information required under the act or rules and regulations adopted 22 and promulgated under the act without first giving the applicant an 23 opportunity to correct the deficiency by supplying the missing 24 information. A decision of the director denying a license pursuant to 25 the act may be appealed, and the appeal shall be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. The director may deny an application 26

for a license if an officer, director, shareholder owning five percent

or more of the voting shares of the applicant, partner, or member was convicted of, pleaded guilty to, or was found guilty after a plea of nolo contendere to (a) a misdemeanor under any state or federal law which involves dishonesty or fraud or which involves any aspect of the mortgage banking business, financial institution business, or installment loan business or (b) any felony under state or federal law.

force and effect until the next succeeding March 1. Beginning January 1, 2008, initial licenses shall remain in full force and effect until the next succeeding December 31. Thereafter, licenses may be renewed annually by filing with the director an application for renewal containing such information as the director may require to indicate any material change in the information contained in the original application or succeeding renewal applications, including the information required by subsection (3) of section 45-705. For the annual renewal of an original license to conduct mortgage banking business under the Mortgage Bankers Registration and Licensing Act, the fee shall be two hundred dollars.

(b) Except as provided in subdivision (3)(c) of this section, for the annual renewal of a license to conduct a mortgage banking business under the Mortgage Bankers Registration and Licensing Act, the fee shall be two hundred dollars plus seventy-five dollars for each branch office, if applicable.

(c) Licenses which expire on March 1, 2008, shall be renewed until December 31, 2008, upon compliance with subdivision (3)(a) of this section. For such renewals, the department shall

prorate the fees provided in subdivision (3)(b) of this section using
a factor of ten-twelfths.

- (4) The director may require a licensee to maintain a minimum net worth, proven by an audit conducted by a certified public accountant, if the director determines that the financial condition of the licensee warrants such a requirement or that the requirement is in the public interest.
- 8 Sec. 5. Section 45-708, Reissue Revised Statutes of 9 Nebraska, is amended to read:
 - 45-708. (1) Any person required to be licensed or registered under the Mortgage Bankers Registration and Licensing Act who, without first obtaining a license or registration under the act or while such license is suspended, revoked, canceled, or expired by the director, engages in the business of or occupation of, advertises or holds himself or herself out as, claims to be, or temporarily acts as a mortgage banker in this state is guilty of a Class II misdemeanor.
 - quilty to, or found quilty after a plea of nolo contendere to (a) a misdemeanor under any state or federal law which involves dishonesty or fraud or which involves any aspect of the mortgage banking business, financial institution business, or installment loan business or (b) any felony under state or federal law, and is employed by or maintains a contractual relationship as an agent of, any person required to be licensed or registered under the Mortgage Bankers Registration and Licensing Act, is guilty of a Class I misdemeanor.

Sec. 6. Section 45-711, Revised Statutes Cumulative
Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

3 45-711. A licensee shall:

7

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

- 4 (1) Disburse required funds paid by the borrower and held in 5 escrow for the payment of insurance payments no later than the date 6 upon which the premium is due under the insurance policy;
 - (2) Disburse funds paid by the borrower and held in escrow for the payment of real estate taxes prior to the time such real estate taxes become delinquent;
 - (3) Pay any penalty incurred by the borrower because of the failure of the licensee to make the payments required in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this section unless the licensee establishes that the failure to timely make the payments was due solely to the fact that the borrower was sent a written notice of the amount due more than fifteen calendar days before the due date to the borrower's last-known address and failed to timely remit the amount due to the licensee;
 - (4) At least annually perform a complete escrow analysis. If there is a change in the amount of the periodic payments, the licensee shall mail written notice of such change to the borrower at least twenty calendar days before the effective date of the change in payment. The following information shall be provided to the borrower, without charge, in one or more reports, at least annually:
- 23 (a) The name and address of the licensee;
- 24 (b) The name and address of the borrower;
- 25 (c) A summary of the escrow account activity during the year 26 which includes all of the following:
- 27 (i) The balance of the escrow account at the beginning of

- 1 the year;
- 2 (ii) The aggregate amount of deposits to the escrow account
- during the year; and
- 4 (iii) The aggregate amount of withdrawals from the escrow
- 5 account for each of the following categories:
- 6 (A) Payments applied to loan principal;
- 7 (B) Payments applied to interest;
- 8 (C) Payments applied to real estate taxes;
- 9 (D) Payments for real property insurance premiums; and
- 10 (E) All other withdrawals; and
- 11 (d) A summary of loan principal for the year as follows:
- 12 (i) The amount of principal outstanding at the beginning of
- 13 the year;
- 14 (ii) The aggregate amount of payments applied to principal
- 15 during the year; and
- 16 (iii) The amount of principal outstanding at the end of the
- 17 year;
- 18 (5) Establish and maintain a toll-free telephone number or
- 19 accept collect telephone calls to respond to inquiries from borrowers,
- 20 if the licensee services mortgage loans. If a licensee ceases to
- 21 service mortgage loans, it shall continue to maintain a toll-free
- 22 telephone number or accept collect telephone calls to respond to
- 23 inquiries from borrowers for a period of twelve months after the date
- 24 the licensee ceased to service mortgage loans. A telephonic messaging
- 25 service which does not permit the borrower an option of personal
- 26 contact with an employee, agent, or contractor of the licensee shall
- 27 not satisfy the conditions of this section. Each day such licensee

LB 129 LB 129

fails to comply with this subdivision shall constitute a separate 1 violation of the Mortgage Bankers Registration and Licensing Act;

2

9

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

- 3 Answer in writing, within ten business days after 4 receipt, any written request for payoff information received from a 5 borrower or a borrower's designated representative. This service shall 6 be provided without charge to the borrower, except that when such 7 information is provided upon request within sixty days after the 8 fulfillment of a previous request, a processing fee of up to ten
- (7) Execute and deliver a release of mortgage pursuant to 10 11 the provisions of section 76-252 or, in the case of a trust deed, 12 execute and deliver a reconveyance pursuant to the provisions of section 76-1014.01; 13
 - (8) Maintain a copy of all documents and records relating to each mortgage loan and application for a mortgage loan, including, but not limited to, loan applications, federal Truth in Lending Act statements, good faith estimates, appraisals, notes, rights of rescission, and mortgages or trust deeds for a period of two years after the date the mortgage loan is funded or the loan application is denied or withdrawn; and
- 21 (9) Notify the director in writing within thirty days after 22 the occurrence of any material development, including, but not limited 23 to:
- (a) The filing of a voluntary petition in bankruptcy or 24 notice of a filing of an involuntary petition in bankruptcy; 25
- (b) Business reorganization; 26

dollars may be charged;

27 (c) The institution of license suspension or revocation

- 1 procedures by any other state or jurisdiction;
- 2 (d) The filing of a criminal indictment or information
- 3 against the licensee or any of its officers, directors, shareholders,
- 4 partners, members, employees, or agents;
- 5 (e) The licensee or any of the licensee's officers,
- 6 directors, shareholders, partners, members, employees, or agents was
- 7 convicted of, pleaded guilty to, or was found guilty after a plea of
- 8 nolo contendere to (i) a misdemeanor under state or federal law which
- 9 involves dishonesty or fraud or which involves any aspect of the
- 10 mortgage banking business, financial institution business, or
- installment loan business or (ii) any felony under state or federal
- 12 law;
- 13 (f) A change of name, trade name, doing business as
- 14 designation, or <u>main office</u> address; or
- 15 (g) The establishment or closing of a branch office.
- 16 <u>located in Nebraska.</u> <u>Notice of such establishment shall be on forms</u>
- 17 prescribed by the department and accompanied by a fee of seventy-five
- dollars for each branch office; or
- 19 (h) The closing of a branch office.
- 20 Sec. 7. Section 45-714, Revised Statutes Cumulative
- 21 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:
- 22 45-714. (1) A licensee, an officer, an employee, or an agent
- of the licensee shall not:
- 24 (a) Assess a late charge if all payments due are received
- 25 before the date upon which late charges are authorized in the
- 26 underlying mortgage or deed of trust or other loan documents;
- 27 (b) Delay closing of a mortgage loan for the purpose of

increasing interest, costs, fees, or charges payable by the borrower;

- 2 (c) Misrepresent or conceal material facts or make false
- 3 promises intended to influence, persuade, or induce an applicant for a
- 4 mortgage loan or a borrower to take a mortgage loan or cause or
- 5 contribute to such a misrepresentation by any person acting on a
- 6 licensee's or any other lender's behalf;
- 7 (d) Misrepresent to, or conceal from, an applicant for a
- 8 mortgage loan or a borrower material facts, terms, or conditions of a
- 9 mortgage loan to which the licensee is a party;
- 10 (e) Engage in any transaction, practice, or business conduct
- 11 that is not in good faith or that operates a fraud upon any person in
- connection with the making of any mortgage loan;
- 13 (f) Receive compensation for acting as a mortgage banker if
- 14 the licensee has otherwise acted as a real estate broker or agent in
- 15 connection with the sale of the real estate which secures the mortgage
- 16 loan unless the licensee has provided written disclosure to the person
- 17 from whom compensation is collected that the licensee is receiving
- compensation both for acting as a mortgage banker and for acting as a
- 19 real estate broker or agent;
- 20 (g) Advertise, display, distribute, broadcast, televise, or
- 21 cause or permit to be advertised, displayed, distributed, broadcasted,
- or televised, in any manner, including by the Internet, any false,
- 23 misleading, or deceptive statement or representation with regard to
- 24 rates, terms, or conditions for a mortgage loan or any false,
- 25 misleading, or deceptive statement regarding the qualifications of the
- licensee or of any officer, employee, or agent thereof;
- 27 (h) Record a lien on real property if money is not available

for the immediate disbursal to the borrower unless, before that
recording, the licensee (i) informs the borrower in writing of the
reason for the delay and of a definite date by which disbursement
shall be made and (ii) obtains the borrower's written permission for
the delay unless the delay is required by any other state or federal
law;

- (i) Fail to account for or deliver to any person personal property obtained in connection with the mortgage banking business, including, but not limited to, money, funds, deposits, checks, drafts, mortgages, or other documents or things of value which the licensee was not entitled to retain;
- 12 (j) Fail to disburse, without just cause, any funds in
 13 accordance with any agreement connected with the mortgage banking
 14 business;
 - (k) Collect fees and charges on funds other than new funds if the licensee makes a mortgage loan to refinance an existing mortgage loan to a current borrower of the licensee within twelve months after the previous mortgage loan made by the licensee;
 - (1) Assess any fees against the borrower other than those which are reasonable and necessary, including actual charges incurred in connection with the making, closing, disbursing, servicing, extending, transferring, or renewing of a loan, including, but not limited to, (i) prepayment charges, (ii) delinquency charges, (iii) premiums for hazard, private mortgage, disability, life, or title insurance, (iv) fees for escrow services, appraisal services, abstracting services, title services, surveys, inspections, credit reports, notary services, and recording of documents, (v) origination

LB 129 LB 129

1 fees, (vi) interest on interest after default, and (vii) costs and charges incurred for determining qualification for the loan proceeds 2 3 and disbursement of the loan proceeds;

4

5

6

7

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

19

20

- (m) Allow the borrower to finance, directly or indirectly, (i) any credit life, credit accident, credit health, credit personal property, or credit loss-of-income insurance or debt suspension coverage or debt cancellation coverage, whether or not such coverage is insurance under applicable law, that provides for cancellation of all or part of a borrower's liability in the event of loss of life, health, personal property, or income or in the case of accident written in connection with a mortgage loan or (ii) any life, accident, health, or loss-of-income insurance without regard to the identity of the ultimate beneficiary of such insurance. For purposes of this section, any premiums or charges calculated and paid on a periodic basis that are not added to the principal of the loan shall not be considered financed directly or indirectly by the creditor;
- 17 (n) Falsify any documentation relating to a mortgage loan or a mortgage loan application; 18
- (o) Recommend or encourage default on an existing loan or other debt prior to and in connection with the closing or planned closing of a mortgage loan that refinances all or any portion of such 22 existing loan or debt; or
- 23 Borrow money from, personally loan money 24 guarantee any loan made to any customer or applicant for a mortgage 25 loan; or -
- 26 (q) Obtain a signature on a document required to be 27 notarized in connection with a mortgage loan or a mortgage loan

application unless the qualified notary public performing the notarization is physically present at the time the signature is obtained.

- 4 (2) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (1) of this section is guilty of a Class III misdemeanor.
- of this section is liable to the applicant for a mortgage loan or to
 the borrower for the fees, costs, and charges incurred in connection
 with obtaining or attempting to obtain the mortgage loan, damages
 resulting from such violation, interest on the damage from the date of
 the violation, and court costs, including reasonable attorney's fees.
- Sec. 8. Section 45-715, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
- 45-715. (1) The department shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Mortgage Bankers Registration and Licensing Act.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

- (2) The department may adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary in the administration of the act and not inconsistent with the act. The department shall make a good faith effort to provide a copy of the notice of hearing as required by section 84-907 in a timely manner to all licensees. Such notice may be sent electronically to licensees.
- (3) The department may participate in a multistate licensing and application system for mortgage lenders and mortgage brokers involving one or more states, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The system shall be established to facilitate the sharing of regulatory information and the licensing

and application processes, by electronic or other means. The

department may allow such system to collect licensing fees on behalf

of the department, allow such system to collect a processing fee for

the services of the system directly from each applicant for a

license, and allow such system to process and maintain records on

behalf of the department, including information collected pursuant to

subsection (5) of section 45-705.

Sec. 9. (1) No person acting personally or as an agent shall acquire control of any mortgage banking business required to be licensed under the Mortgage Bankers Registration and Licensing Act without first giving sixty days' notice to the department on forms prescribed by the department of such proposed acquisition and paying a filing fee of two hundred dollars.

- (2) The director, upon receipt of such notice, shall act upon it within thirty days and, unless he or she disapproves the proposed acquisition within that period of time, the acquisition shall become effective on the sixty-first day after receipt without the director's approval, except that the director may extend the thirty-day period an additional thirty days if, in his or her judgment, any material information submitted is substantially inaccurate or the acquiring party has not furnished all the information required by the department.
- 23 (3) An acquisition may be made prior to the expiration of
 24 the disapproval period if the director issues written notice of his or
 25 her intent not to disapprove the action.
- 26 (4)(a) The director may disapprove any proposed acquisition
 27 if:

1 (i) The financial condition of any acquiring person is such as might jeopardize the financial stability of the acquired mortgage 2 3 banking business; (ii) The character and general fitness of any acquiring 4 5 person or of any of the proposed management personnel indicates that the acquired mortgage banking business would not be operated 6 7 honestly, soundly, or efficiently in the public interest; or (iii) Any acquiring person neglects, fails, or refuses to 8 9 furnish all information required by the department. (b) The director shall notify the acquiring party in 10 11 writing of disapproval of the acquisition. The notice shall provide a 12 statement of the basis for the disapproval. 13 (c) Within fifteen business days after receipt of written 14 notice of disapproval, the acquiring party may request a hearing on the proposed acquisition in accordance with the Administrative 15 16 Procedure Act. At the conclusion of such hearing, the director shall, by order, approve or disapprove the proposed acquisition on the basis 17 of the record made at the hearing. 18 Sec. 10. Original sections 45-708 and 45-715, Reissue 19 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 45-701, 45-702, 45-705, 20 45-706, 45-711, and 45-714, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 21 22 2006, are repealed.